

WESTMINSTER ATTACK

To answer how violent zealot

led only on the periphery of their inquiries



A policeman carries flowers on Westminster Bridge near the Houses of Parliament yesterday. Above, the flat in Hagley Road, Birmingham, which was raided by anti-terror police — Dominic Lipinski/PA



Tourism

Visitors draw comfort from locals' stoicism

JOSHUA CHAFFIN — LONDON
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Chu Jeong Woo and his tour group from South Korea were supposed to visit the Houses of Parliament yesterday. But with the area cordoned off, they had to settle for selfies with the symbol of British democracy — and the scene of Wednesday's lethal terror attack — as a backdrop.

"Change in plans," Mr Chu, a student, explained, as many of his group snapped pictures of parliament and Big Ben from the far bank of the Thames.

Some flashed peace signs as helicopters whirred overhead and police boats floated past. Asked if he was worried about security, Mr Chu shrugged and said: "I feel safe."

The attack, in which the citizens of 11 countries were mown down on Westminster Bridge, unfolded at one of London's most popular tourist attractions.

Kurt Cochran, a Utah man visiting family in the UK and celebrating a 25th wedding anniversary, was killed. His wife, Melissa, was injured. Andreea Cristea, a 29-year-old architect from Romania who suffered critical injuries when she tumbled from the bridge, was recovering from brain surgery yesterday. Her boyfriend, Andrei Burnaz, injured in the attack, had planned to propose to her during their visit, according to Romania's UK ambassador, Dan Mihalache.

But like Mr Chu, many visitors to London seemed unruffled by the sort of terror attack that has become familiar in western cities in recent years. They also drew comfort from the stoicism of the locals and the professionalism of police around the city.

"I think we're used to this now," said Beatriz Gandara, 25, a student from Galicia in Spain, who was watching the scene from across the river with two friends. "People are coming to look, so they're not scared."

Cindy Patterson, who was on her way to the airport in Columbus, Ohio, when news of the attack broke, said she never thought to cancel her trip. "We had

ge of counter-terrorism
ions admitted it was often
to strike a balance between
to the public and maintaining an
ive advantage. "The police will
n who he was from the start. If
their position, I would have
get hold of any electronic
at belonged to him and to find
was communicating with on
," he said.
track back and make sure we

think-tank. "You are looking at a figure who was part of a known network but was a peripheral, not a priority, subject, someone at the fringes. So someone who holds these ideas, circulates in the radical milieu . . . Prioritising how to intervene and deal with someone like that is still the big problem security agencies face."

MI5 has over 3,000 subjects of interest on its files. The vast majority are not the subject of current investigations, of which there are around 500. In those,